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## British ex-spy who inspired novels dies

London (AP)—Sir Maurice Oldfield, 65, a former British spy master, died yesterday. He reputedly was the model for Ian Fleming's character "M" in the James Bond novels and for John Le Carre's fictional intelligence chief, George Smiley.



Sir Maurice  
Oldfield

The cause of death was not disclosed. An announcement by the government said Oldfield died in a hospital but did not disclose its location. He lived in Derbyshire, in northern England.

Oldfield was director-general of MI-6, Britain's intelligence service, for 12 years. His job officially was classified as a Foreign Office post, with no cloak-and-dagger connotations, but an American newspaper had identified him as head of the secret service.

After a distinguished career in the secret service, Oldfield retired in 1979, only to be called back to public service later that year to coordinate security operations against terrorists in Northern Ireland. He served as a liaison between the army, the police and the British government.

He retired from his Northern Ireland post last June because of ill health and settled in Derbyshire. He never married. ■